J.J. ABRAMS

ALEX KURTZMAN & ROBERTO ORCI

PRESENT

FRINGE™

#3 OF 6
MAY 09

WILDSTORM

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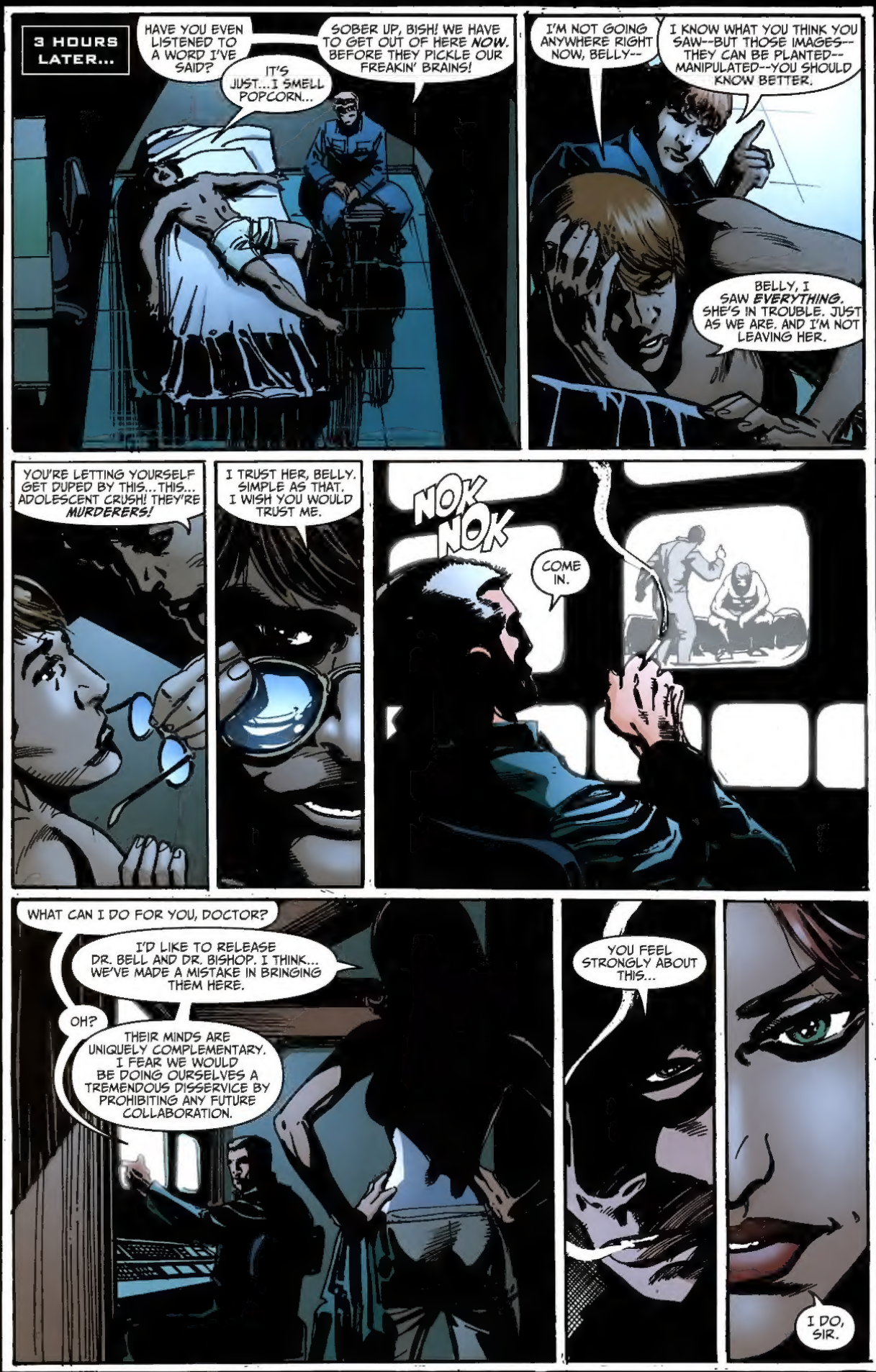
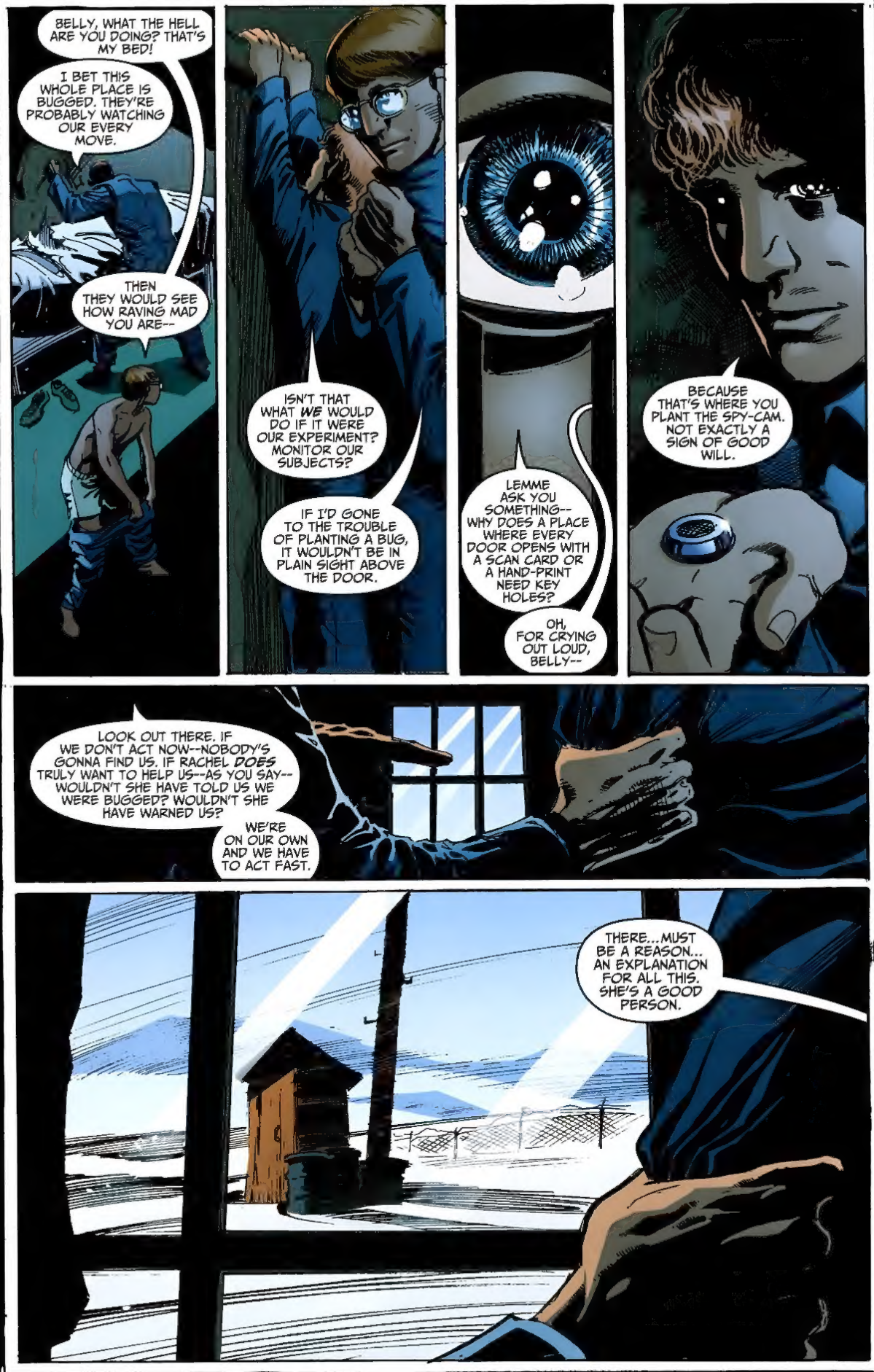
I REALLY WISH YOU HADN'T FOUND THIS ROOM...
YOU'RE KEEPING HEADS IN JARS HERE!
--BECAUSE I WISH I COULD HAVE SHOWN IT TO YOU MYSELF...
...AND THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAVE US FROM.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THE CESNA. THE REMOTE FACILITY. DON'T YOU WONDER WHO PAYS FOR THIS? THIS IS A BLACK OPS PROJECT. DESIGNED TO BRING THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST MINDS IN THE WORLD TOGETHER. TO BECOME GREATER THAN THE SUM OF THEIR PARTS.
AND IF ANY OF US ARE GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE, WE'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER.
IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE--
THAT WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER? BISH-- SHE'S LYING TO US. CAN'T YOU SEE THAT? SHE'S BEEN LYING TO US THE WHOLE TIME!
SHE BROUGHT US HERE TO HAVE US KILLED.
BUT IF SHE'S TELLING US THE TRUTH, THEN SHE'S OUR ONLY HOPE.
HOW DO WE KNOW YOU'RE NOT JUST TELLING US WHAT WE WANT TO HEAR, DR. MATHESON?
BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO READ MY MIND, DR. BISHOP.
DO YOU TRUST ME?

IF YOU THINK ANYONE'S GONNA LET YOU DO THIS, LADY, YOU'RE SADLY MISTAKEN. THIS IS UNPROVEN. THIS IS DANGEROUS. AND--
--THIS COULD NOT BE MORE FASCINATING! WHEN DO WE BEGIN?
READY WHEN YOU ARE, DR. BISHOP.
I'LL JUST NEED A LITTLE ASSISTANCE FROM DR. BELL.
FIRST WE'LL RECEIVE A COCKTAIL OF SEROTONIN, NEURONTIN, AND LYSERGIC ACID DIETHYLAMIDE, LOOSENING OUR NEURAL PATHWAYS--
--THEN THE ELECTRICAL CURRENT WILL FORGE A BRIDGE BETWEEN OUR BRAIN WAVES--
--AND YOU WILL SEE WHAT I'VE SEEN AND KNOW EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN THROUGH. ANY QUESTIONS?
JUST ONE, ACTUALLY. WHAT EXACTLY ARE THESE CLAMPS FOR?
IN THE EVENT THAT SOMETHING... UNPREDICTABLE... HAPPENS WHILE WE'RE UNDER. WE CAN'T HURT OURSELVES OR EACH OTHER. DO THEY MAKE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE?
ON THE CONTRARY... I QUITE LIKE THEM.

FORGETTING SOMETHING?
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT. IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO ME...I LOVE YOU, BELLY.
I MEANT YOUR WATCH.
OH...RIGHT. THE MAGNETISM OF THE QUARTZ CRYSTALS. WOULDN'T WANT THAT TO INTERFERE WITH THE EXPERIMENT.
LISTEN, BISH--I KNOW WE'RE IN A JAM, BUT THIS RISK--
--WILL ALWAYS BE PRESENT WHEN PURSUING SOMETHING WORTHWHILE. RELAX, BELLY...WE'LL BE FINE.
LISTEN TO THE SOUND OF MY VOICE. IT WILL SERVE AS YOUR GUIDE. YOU SHOULD BE DRIFTING UNDER IN THREE...
...TWO...
...ONE...

I... SEE HER...
WE BELIEVE ALL YOU NEED IS ENOUGH FUNDING AND THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT...
WE COULDN'T BE MORE THRILLED TO HAVE YOU, DR. MATHESON.
PLEASE. THE PLEASURE'S ALL MINE, DR. RUTHCHILD. REALLY. IT'S AN HONOR...
DR. RUTHCHILD. WE'D LIKE TO HAVE A FEW WORDS, IF YOU DON'T MIND...
...LEMME GO... YOU HAVE NO RIGHT...
POP POP
CONGRATULATIONS, DR. MATHESON. YOU ARE NOW OUR HEAD SCIENTIST.
SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH...


3 HOURS LATER...
HAVE YOU EVEN LISTENED TO A WORD I'VE SAID?
IT'S JUST...I SMELL POPCORN...
SOBER UP, BISH! WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE NOW. BEFORE THEY PICKLE OUR FREAKIN' BRAINS!
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE RIGHT NOW, BELLY--
I KNOW WHAT YOU THINK YOU SAW--BUT THOSE IMAGES--THEY CAN BE PLANTED--MANIPULATED--YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER.
BELLY, I SAW EVERYTHING. SHE'S IN TROUBLE. JUST AS WE ARE. AND I'M NOT LEAVING HER.
YOU'RE LETTING YOURSELF GET DUPED BY THIS...THIS... ADOLESCENT CRUSH! THEY'RE MURDERERS!
I TRUST HER, BELLY. SIMPLE AS THAT. I WISH YOU WOULD TRUST ME.
NOK NOK
COME IN.
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, DOCTOR?
I'D LIKE TO RELEASE DR. BELL AND DR. BISHOP. I THINK... WE'VE MADE A MISTAKE IN BRINGING THEM HERE.
OH?
THEIR MINDS ARE UNIQUELY COMPLEMENTARY. I FEAR WE WOULD BE DOING OURSELVES A TREMENDOUS DISSERVICE BY PROHIBITING ANY FUTURE COLLABORATION.
YOU FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT THIS...
I DO, SIR.

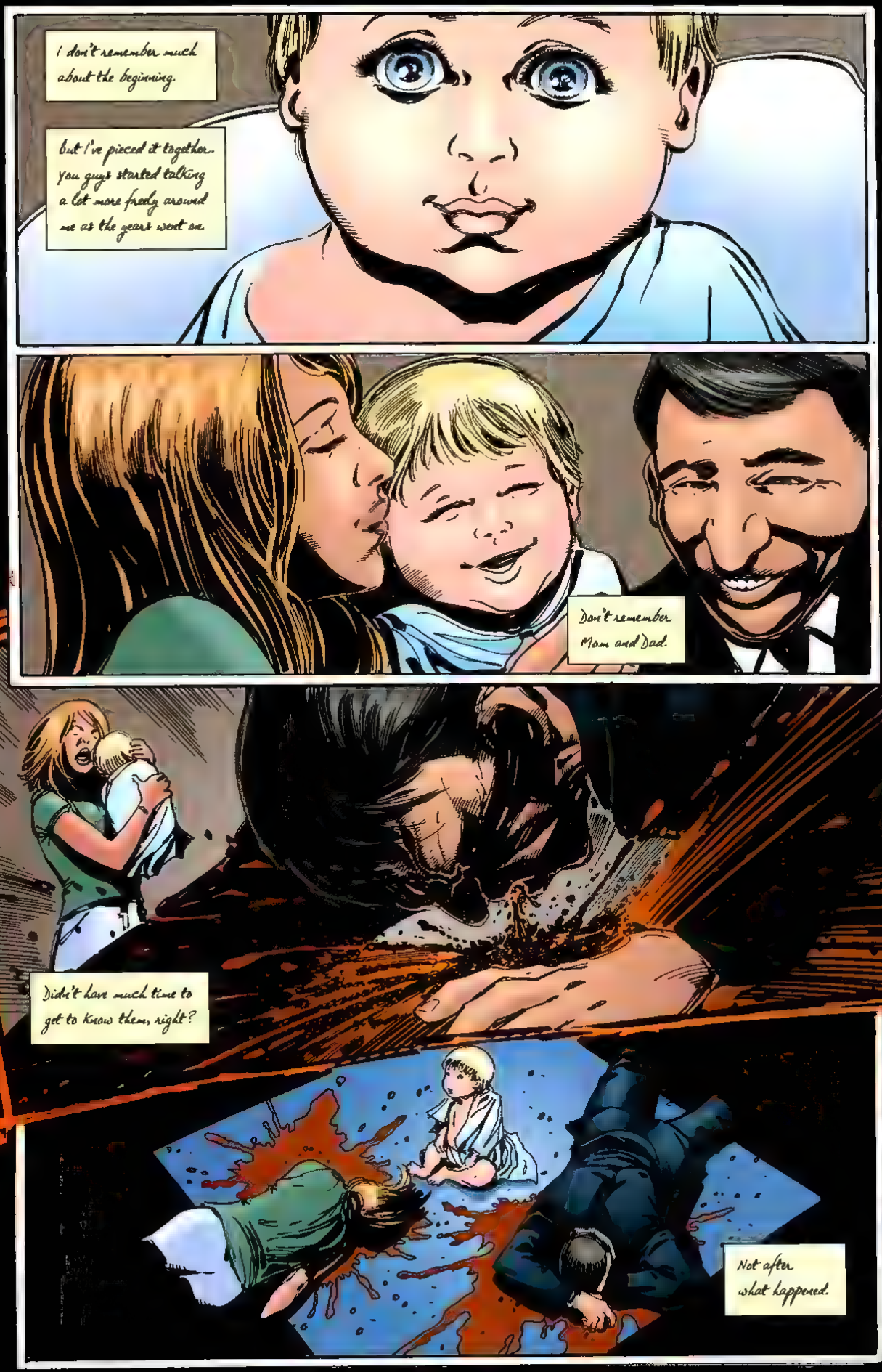

BELLY, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING? THAT'S MY BED!
I BET THIS WHOLE PLACE IS BUGGED. THEY'RE PROBABLY WATCHING OUR EVERY MOVE.
THEN THEY WOULD SEE HOW RAVING MAD YOU ARE--
ISN'T THAT WHAT WE WOULD DO IF IT WERE OUR EXPERIMENT? MONITOR OUR SUBJECTS?
IF I'D GONE TO THE TROUBLE OF PLANTING A BUG, IT WOULDN'T BE IN PLAIN SIGHT ABOVE THE DOOR.
LEMME ASK YOU SOMETHING-- WHY DOES A PLACE WHERE EVERY DOOR OPENS WITH A SCAN CARD OR A HAND-PRINT NEED KEY HOLES?
OH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, BELLY--
BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE YOU PLANT THE SPY-CAM. NOT EXACTLY A SIGN OF GOOD WILL.
LOOK OUT THERE. IF WE DON'T ACT NOW--NOBODY'S GONNA FIND US. IF RACHEL DOES TRULY WANT TO HELP US--AS YOU SAY-- WOULDN'T SHE HAVE TOLD US WE WERE BUGGED? WOULDN'T SHE HAVE WARNED US?
WE'RE ON OUR OWN AND WE HAVE TO ACT FAST.
THERE...MUST BE A REASON... AN EXPLANATION FOR ALL THIS. SHE'S A GOOD PERSON.

IT'S DR. BISHOP, ISN'T IT? I COULDN'T HELP NOTICING HE TOOK A LIKING TO YOU.
THIS IS STRICTLY A PROFESSIONAL SUGGESTION. WE DON'T NEED THEM ANYMORE.
AND WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
BECAUSE I HAVE ALL OF BISHOP'S KNOWLEDGE RIGHT HERE IN MY HEAD.
IMPRESSIVE WORK, DR. MATHESON. BUT THESE ORDERS COME FROM WAY UP TOP. WE PROCEED AS PLANNED.
YESSIR. WE PROCEED AS PLANNED.
RAP RAP RAP
ƷZZƷ --NES-- ƷZZZZZZƷ --OBS-- ƷZZzZZƷ
RACHEL--WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG--?
YOU WANNA TELL US ANYTHING SPECIAL... THAT WE WERE BUGGED, MAYBE?
THE PLAN IS TO KILL YOU TOMORROW. WE HAVE LESS THAN 24 HOURS TO GET OUT OF HERE.

OR MAYBE WE JUST MAKE A DEAL--TRADE THE GOOD DOCTOR HERE FOR OUR TICKET OUT. YOU SEEM PRETTY IMPORTANT TO THEM.
YOU'LL QUICKLY DISCOVER YOU'VE MADE A VERY GRAVE ERROR. I SUGGEST YOU HEAR ME OUT. UNLESS I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH A PLAN TO GET US OUT OF HERE IN ONE PIECE.
YOU SEE--NUCLEAR ENERGY CREATES THE PROPELLANT CHARGE REQUIRED FOR THE SUPERCOLLIDER TO FUNCTION.
IN THE EVENT OF A LEAK, AN ALARM SOUNDS AND EVERY WORKER REPORTS TO EMERGENCY STATIONS. THIS WILL CLEAR THE FLOOR, GRANTING US APPROXIMATELY TEN MINUTES TO FIX THE TELEPORTER.
ALL WE NEED TO DO IS GET INTO THE POD AND MANUALLY SOUND THE EMERGENCY ALARM. THE ONLY CATCH IS IT'S MONITORED BY AN ARMED GUARD. BUT I'VE COME UP WITH TWO WAYS TO BYPASS HIM. FIRST--
WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE, PRIVATE? BRADBURY REQUESTED TO SPEAK WITH YOU MORE THAN TEN MINUTES AGO.
I--I RECEIVED NO SUCH ORDER, MA'AM.
WELL THAT'S NOT GONNA HELP YOUR CASE, IS IT? I'LL COVER FOR YOU WITH BRADBURY JUST THIS ONCE--HURRY UP, MOVE IT.
YESSIR. I MEAN, MA'AM. THANK YOU. I'M ON MY WAY.
I WONDER WHAT PLAN B WAS...
I WAS GONNA SHOOT HIM.
WELL THEN, LUCKY FOR HIM...
ARE YOU BOYS READY FOR THIS?
COM-ALERT 3--EVERYONE TO STATIONS--COM-ALERT 3

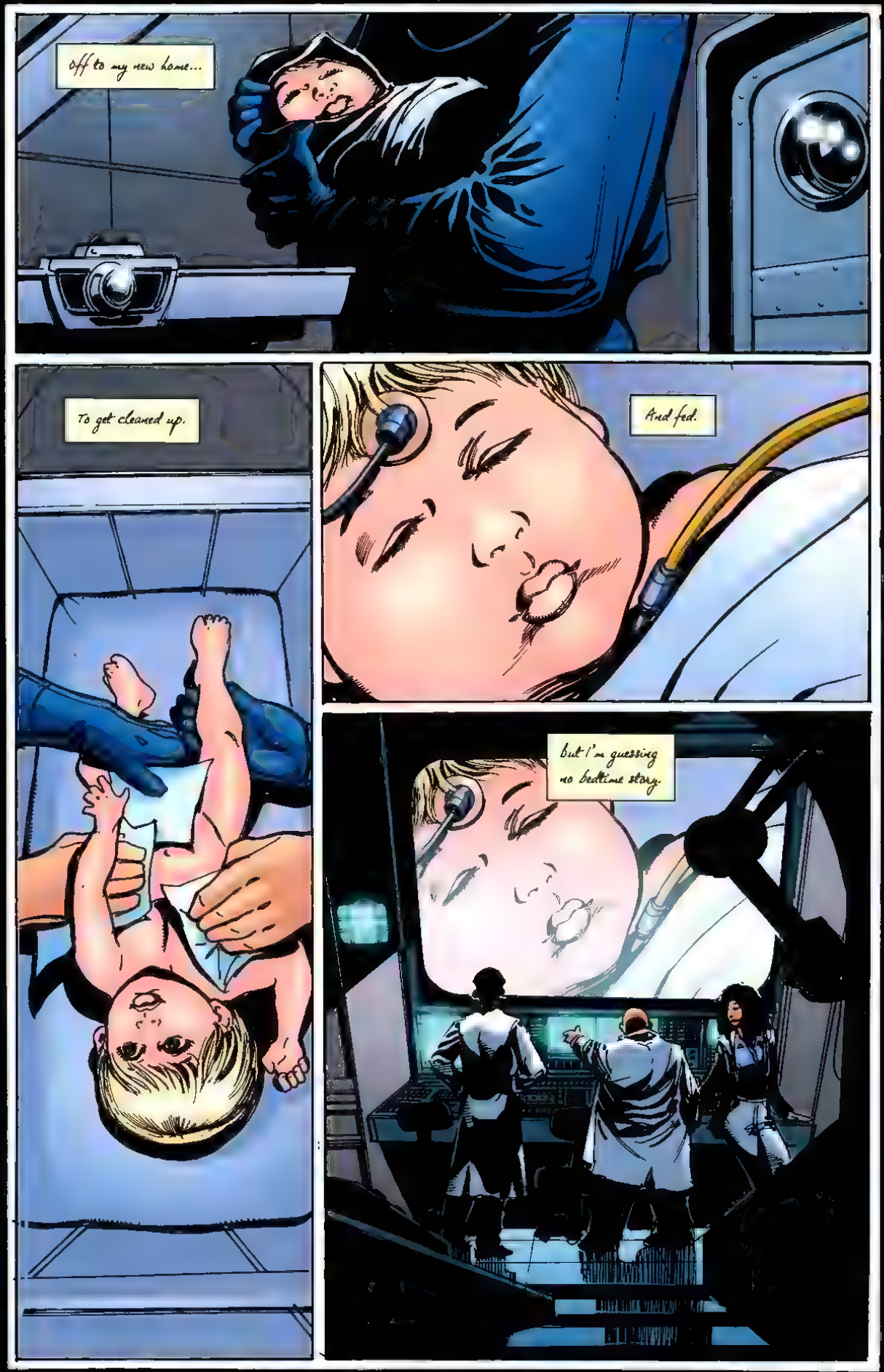
I WANT A READING OF THE HOT AREA. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AND HOW IT HAPPENED! AND WILL SOMEONE PLEASE TELL ME WHERE THE HELL DOCTOR MATHESON IS?
NO SIGN OF HER ON ANY OF THE MONITORS, SIR--
TRACK HER NEURAL CHIP--WE NEED HER NOW!
LOCATED, SIR. SHE'S IN SECTOR TWELVE... WITH THE TWO DOCTORS.
THEY'RE--THEY'RE IN THE TELEPORTER, SIR.
THIS IS THE TELEPORTER'S HEART AND BRAIN ALL ROLLED INTO ONE.
IT'S FANTASTIC!
IT OUGHT TO BE. IT'S OUR DESIGN.
BUT IT'S RELEASING TOO MUCH ENERGY--THAT'S WHY IT'S DESTABILIZING ATOMS.
--SO WE NEED MORE FILTRATION TO MODULATE THE POWER--
WHICH WOULD REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL CRYSTAL--THAT WE DON'T HAVE...
UHM... ACTUALLY...
MY WATCH...
--HAS A QUARTZ CRYSTAL IN IT. IT MAY BE JUST ENOUGH...
IF I CAN GET THIS CRYSTAL FUSED... THIS JUST MIGHT WORK--
UH...WE'VE GOT COMPANY, BISH--

I TOLD YOU! SHE SET US UP-- SHE'S BEEN PLAYING US THE WHOLE TIME!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN WHY IS SHE POINTING THE GUN AT THEM?
EXCELLENT WORK, DR. MATHESON. THE DOCTORS HAVE THE TELEPORTER WORKING, JUST AS YOU SAID THEY WOULD. NOW PUT THE GUN DOWN.
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T DO THAT.
I'M WARNING YOU, DOCTOR. I'M GOING TO COUNT TO THREE. AND THEN WE'RE GOING TO OPEN FIRE.
IT'S READY! LET'S GO!
ONE
TWO.
RAT-TAT-
TAT-
-TAT
..I NEED TO MAKE A CALL.

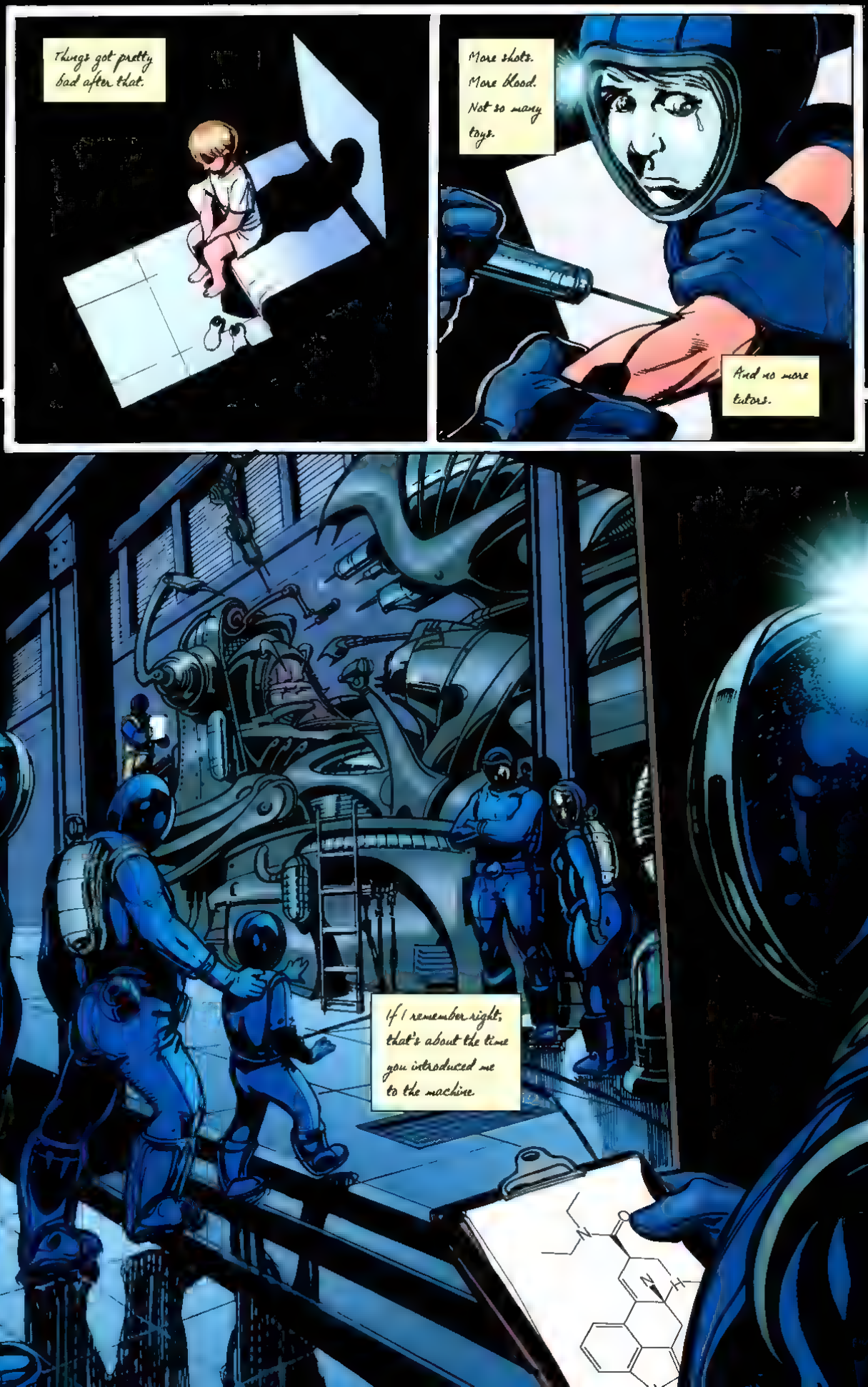

I don't remember much about the beginning.
but I've pieced it together. You guys started talking a lot more freely around me as the years went on.
Don't remember Mom and Dad.
Didn't have much time to get to know them, right?
Not after what happened.

OH MY SWEET LORD IN HEAVEN...
I'm a little fuzzy on the details, but I'm guessing a relative or a neighbor or somebody found me.
All I know is eleven people died before they finally figured it out.
The nice cop who first picked me up must have been one.
POOR LITTLE GUY...
Then the guy in the ambulance. Maybe two.
POLICE
AMBULANCE

Then the people at the hospital.
Can you imagine what they must have been thinking?
The case of the toxic killer baby
And then you people swept in to the rescue.
Did you even have to fill out paperwork?
And off I went.


off to my new home...
To get cleaned up.
And fed.
but I'm guessing no bedtime story.

Were you disappointed when you found out I couldn't speak? Did you think it was just a side effect?
At least you let me have some toys. I was so lucky. Most kids don't get a big cool observation window in their playroom.
At some point you must have realized that I wasn't a total loss mentally.
you gave me a tutor. She was nice. She had red hair.
6/42
That was your first mistake. She was the first one to treat me like a person.
She taught me to read and write.
I heard her arguing with you people once. I heard her say I need help. I didn't know what "help" was.
but I never saw her again after that. Maybe she didn't want to be one of you anymore.
Maybe I'll try to find her. Maybe she'll remember me.


Things got pretty bad after that.
More shots. More blood. Not so many toys.
And no more tutors.
If I remember right, that's about the time you introduced me to the machine

I wish so much that you people could experience the machine, just one time.
What did you do with all the blood?
Did you try to find out how my gift worked? Try to reproduce it?
But you never could figure it out, could you? So you kept me around.
You must have realized that the more punishment I took, the less you got out of me. So you let me spend time out of the suit.
And thanks for the TV. That was your second mistake.

THE STORM FRONT

OUT THIS MONTH!

Right off the bat, I could tell the concept art to *Prototype* was fantastic! This was something that they had worked on for a long time. It was their secret baby and they knew it would be a fantastic game. And sure enough, when I saw the cut scenes they had, it blew me away!

Alex Mercer is the main character. He has a really cool look and it's very, very contemporary. In the demo I played, he's running up the side of a building. He's got these gigantic claws out and there are thousands of soldiers after him. Wow, they're really shooting for the sky on this.

Not only is the action great in this game, but so is the story—and that's what we wanted to capture with PROTOTYPE #1. Jimmy Palmiotti and Justin Gray deliver a kinetic "action investigation" in Alex Mercer's misunderstood world. The textured, visceral art of Darick Robertson and Matt Jacobs drips into every panel to flesh out this dark, paranoid world where man and monsters collide.

Staying with the theme of adrenaline-filled man vs. monster sagas, one monstrous talent comes to mind, Simon Bisley. He's drawing issue #7 of GEARS OF WAR, which tells the tragic tale of Tai Kaliso. Joshua Ortega has also been writing one knockout issue after another and this one's sure to be another blockbuster story.

That's it for this month. I'm on my way to the New York Comic Con now, so I hope you had a chance to stop by!

Best,

JIM LEE

COLLECTED EDITIONS:
SECRET HISTORY OF THE AUTHORITY: HAWKSMOOR TP
RESIDENT EVIL: FIRE & ICE TP

IN STORES MARCH:

AUTHORITY #8
EX MACHINA SPECIAL #5
FRINGE #3
GEARS OF WAR #5
GEN13 #28
MIRROR'S EDGE #5
MYSTERIUS #3
RESIDENT EVIL #1
RESISTANCE #4
STORMWATCH: PHD #20
TOP10 Season Two #4
TOP10 Season Two Special
WILDCATS #9
WORLD OF WARCRAFT #17
X-FILES #5

For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more, visit us at wildstorm.com

NEXT ISSUE:
FRINGE #4

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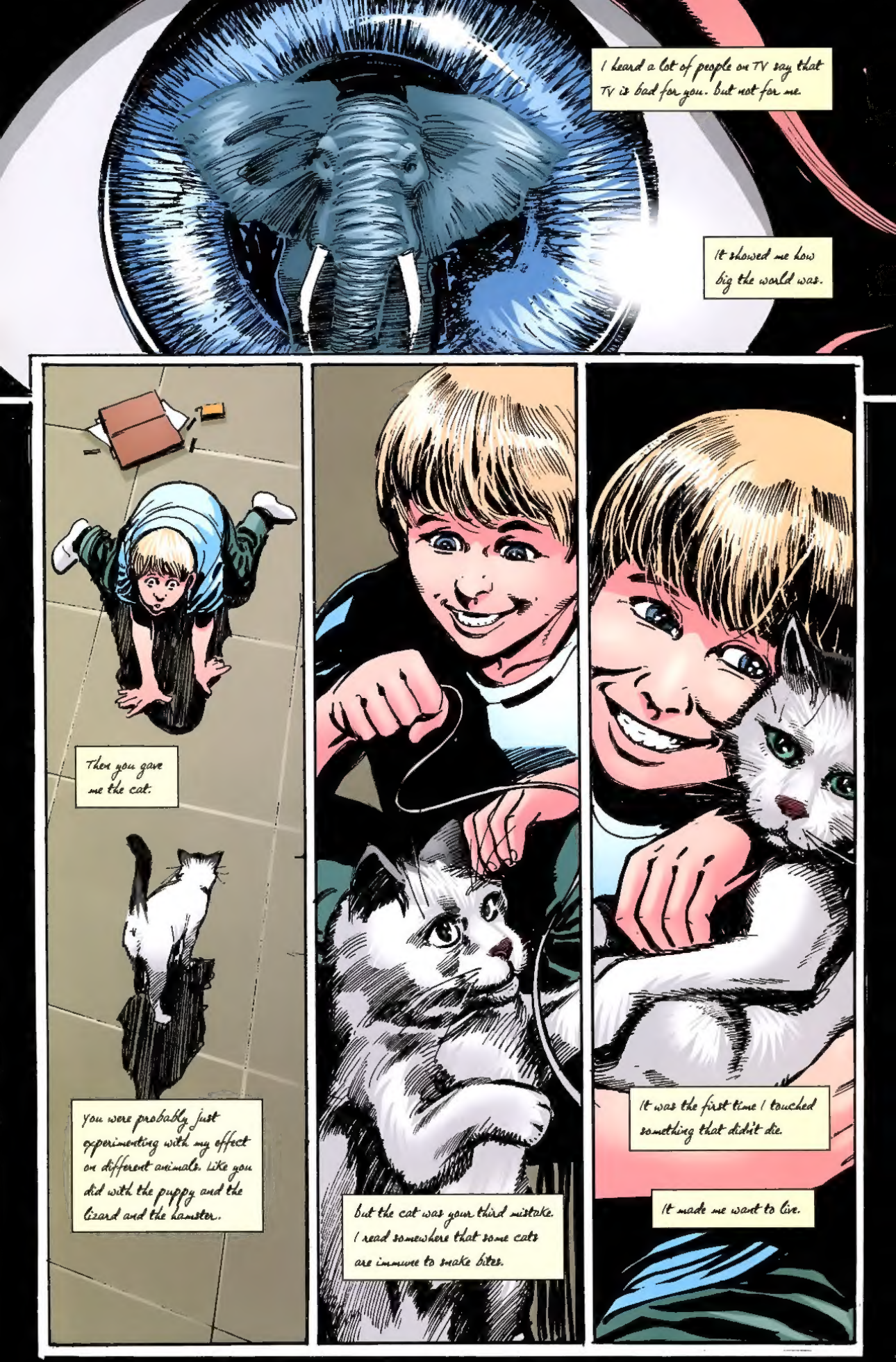
I heard a lot of people on TV say that TV is bad for you. But not for me.
It showed me how big the world was.
Then you gave me the cat.
You were probably just experimenting with my effect on different animals. Like you did with the puppy and the lizard and the hamster.
But the cat was your third mistake. I read somewhere that some cats are immune to snake bites.
It was the first time I touched something that didn't die.
It made me want to live.

Right now you're probably wondering how I pulled this off.
Which leads me to your last mistake.
You kept me too long.
Long enough for me to memorize security.
Long enough to figure out who was watching me, and when they weren't.
Long enough to figure out who was watching me, and when they weren't.
Long enough to find every air vent, every door, every hallway, every dead end, every way out.

so I'm leaving.
And I'm not coming back.
Maybe I'll tell someone about you when I get out. I don't know.
Whatever's out there, it can't be any worse than what's in here.
I'll try not to hurt anyone.
because I'm going to prove you people wrong.

I'm going to prove that I can live in the world.
And you will never find me.
Goodbye.
MASSIVE DYNAMICM
RUN AWAY
WRITER: MIKE JOHNSON
ARTIST: TOM MANDRAKE
COLORIST: WSFX
LETTERER: WES ABBOTT
ASSISTANT EDITOR: KRISTY QUINN
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